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FLOOR DEBATE

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local government to allow the department to defer to local authorities who are better equipped to handle disposal practices within their jurisdiction. The committee amendment will modify this proposed change that will go into that during the...oh, I'll go into that during the opening on the committee amendments. Finally, with respect to the Pesticide Act, the bill deletes existing disciplinary procedures scattered throughout the act and replaces these with a more uniform procedure that is used in other laws the department administers. The bill also changes provisions of the Nebraska Apiary Act. Currently, persons selling 25 or more colonies are required to obtain a health certificate from the department, that the colonies are disease and pest free. The bill would remove this requirement. Secondly, the bill strikes a fee currently collected when the bee colonies are registered. This reduction in program level is related to the decline of bee keeping activity. I know there's a lot to digest, and I'm prepared to go into this in greater detail on specific provisions if the body has questions. I am handing out a rather detailed section-by-section summary of the bill that might address some of your questions, and I would offer you that if you have particular concerns about the effect and intent of any of the proposed changes, that I and my staff would be willing to sit down and visit with anybody between now and Select File to resolve these questions that you might have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Dierks, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. A point-by-point explanation of the changes made by the committee amendments can be found in the committee statement. They are also included in the rather detailed section-by-section summary I've handed out. The first part of the amendment affects the changes in Section 2-2625 of the Pesticide Act. As originally intended...as originally introduced, the bill would have removed the state's preemption over local government regulation of the disposal of pesticides. The department wanted this revision to enable local authorities who are often closer to the scene and have more immediate resources to respond to a pesticide disposal